

Michigan School Readiness Program

Michigan Department of Education

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Office of School Excellence

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August 2002 Update



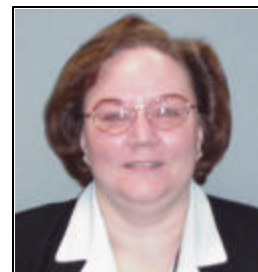
Attention!!

STATE AID ALLOCATION NOTIFICATIONS MAILED

Community Needs and Resources Assessment (CNRA) reports (MSRP State Aid pre-application forms) were received from 467 local school districts/public school academies. An Allocation Award Notification Packet has been mailed to the superintendent/director of each applicant district/PSA. This year the Allocation Award Notification Packet includes an important new form. As a result of several new districts applying for funding, combined with one of the larger districts in the state increasing its capacity to serve more children, many districts did not receive "second round" funding. Superintendents are being asked to sign and fax back immediately an Allocation Award Acceptance Agreement to be followed by a participating or non-participating Board Resolution. Enhanced allocations, or "third round" funding, may be offered as early as the end of August to districts with the greatest need that did not receive their initial requests for children. We are asking any district not able to accept its full allocation to return the fax immediately, which will allow staff to offer those slots to other districts. It is important for districts that do not fill their programs or are not able to serve the total number of children awarded to return those slots so more children throughout the state may receive MSRP services. There are approximately 5,000 four-year-old children "at-risk" identified by the CNRA process who have no other program option and who could be served by participating districts.

Thank You, Sharon!!

Sharon Singer, fondly referred to as *The Queen of Technology* by staff and friends in Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, is to be commended for her lead and support of the implementation of the Michigan Electronic Grants System (MEGS) for our programs. As the Departmental Technician for the unit, Sharon's main responsibility is working with large grant program database systems and providing consultants as well as support staff the informational technology necessary to maintain high-quality programs. Countless numbers of people from the field rely on Sharon's assistance when technological challenges present themselves. There are many from the Department as well as the field whose computer knowledge and skillfulness have been enhanced as a result of Sharon's support. The many presentations consultants create as technical assistance are a result of Sharon's continuous effort to make available the latest in technology. Please extend your thanks and appreciation to Sharon as she is one of the "behind the scenes" people who provide support everyday to make it possible for us to do good work.



STATE AID APPLICATION/PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – MICHIGAN ELECTRONIC GRANTS SYSTEM (MEGS)

The final application, which is the Program Implementation Plan for the Michigan School Readiness Program, will be the second report MSRP providers will be required to complete using MEGS. The general consensus from the field, as people worked through MEGS to complete and submit the CNRA, was very positive. Consultants were pleased as well with the on-line ability to work with the field as they submitted or modified CNRA reports.

We anticipate that the Program Implementation Plan/final application, will be available through MEGS on or before September 10 with an October 15 due date.

Please check the web site for applications to become available. **The NEW web address for the Michigan Department of Education is www.michigan.gov/mde**, on the left click the Grants link, under What's New click Early Childhood Grants, then click on Michigan School Readiness Program – State Aid. Be sure to add the site to your "Favorites" in your web browser.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Pending administrative approval, four positions are available within Early Childhood and Parenting Programs. Two are consultant positions and two are support staff positions. Consultants must have a Masters Degree in Education and a Michigan elementary teaching certificate with the Early Childhood Specialist (ZA) Endorsement.

If interested, please send a cover letter and résumé to the attention of Marilyn Fisher, Michigan Department of Education, Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing MI 48909 and also to Dr. Lindy Buch, Supervisor, Michigan Department of Education, Office of School Excellence, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, P.O. Box 30008, Lansing, MI 48909.



MICHIGAN SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL REVISED

As a result of three years of use by both Early Childhood and Parenting Programs' staff and professionals in the field, the *MSRP Implementation Manual* has gone through a summer of review and revisions. The *Implementation Manual* is a compilation of five documents that support the implementation of high-quality Michigan School Readiness Programs. This document, although it is in excess of 100 pages, is in a very user-friendly format and should be relied upon to answer questions regarding the implementation of a high-quality preschool program. It is recommended that the document be downloaded from the web, www.michigan.gov/mde and put in a binder to be kept as a quick reference for teaching teams as well as program directors and administrators. Many additions to the manual, sample forms, etc. are a result of feedback and sharing from the field of early childhood professionals.

Suggestions for additions or improvement to the manual are always welcome. Please contact Connie Robinson at (517) 241-4291 or by e-mail at robinsonconnie@michigan.gov.



Reports, Reports

MSRP 2001-2002 YEAR END REPORTS DUE

The MSRP 2001-2002 Narrative Summary Report for State Aid and Competitive programs was due August 1, 2002. If the children's program extended beyond June 15, the report was due 45 days after the last date of the children's program.

Please notify our office if your program extends beyond June 15 by calling (517) 373-8483. The reports must be downloaded from our web site and mailed to the Department. To access the report, go to www.michigan.gov/mde, on the left click the Grants link, under What's New click Early Childhood Grants, then click on Michigan School Readiness Program – State Aid or Michigan School Readiness Program – Competitive. Please make sure you fill out the appropriate Narrative Summary for your program.

The 2000-2001 Full-Day Services Grant for MSRP and Head Start Programs Narrative Summary Report is due October 31, 2002.

DELINQUENT REPORTS

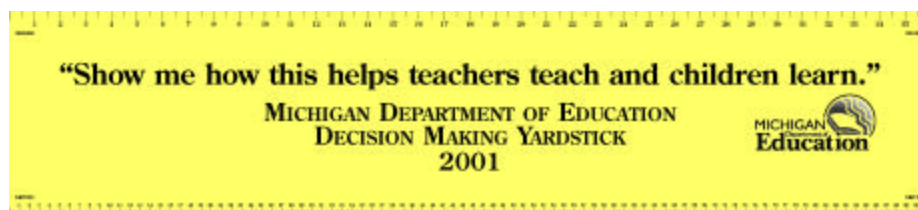
A number of school districts/PSAs have received Delinquent Report Memos for missing important due dates/deadlines for reporting on the MSRP grant. MSRP contacts are reminded to check the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs web site periodically to keep up-to-date with the availability of reports and important due dates. Delinquent Reports affect the timeline for the whole state of Michigan. If just one district does not submit the Comprehensive Community Needs and Resources Assessment by the due date, it is not possible to run the allocation program which delays the announcement of awards for every applicant in the state.

Language and Literacy
It's **MORE** than reading books!



THIRD ANNUAL FALL KICK-OFF

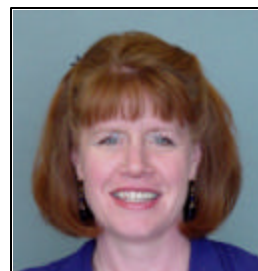
MSRP teaching teams, including program administrators, directors and classroom teaching staff, should plan to participate in this professional development opportunity. There is a \$50 per person charge for this Kick-Off. It is necessary to pre-register as no on-site registration will be available. Payment **must** accompany registration forms. Registration forms are available on the web site: www.michigan.gov/mde. On the left click the Grants link, under What's New click Early Childhood Grants, and look under Meetings.



Congratulations!!

Barbara Roth

Barbara Roth was recruited and has accepted a position with the National Division of the YMCA as the new Specialty Consultant for Child Care. Barb had many responsibilities as a Consultant for Early Childhood and Parenting Programs including but not limited to School-Age Child Care, Michigan School Readiness full-day and part-day programs and initiating Michigan's application for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Staff from Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, as well as many from the field, will greatly miss the positive working relationship experienced with Barb as both a colleague and friend. Thank you Barb! We wish you well!



Mancelona Day Care Center

The Mancelona Day Care Center and Readiness 4 classroom were recently accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. They also received the Governor's Quality Care Award this year. Congratulations!

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

- August 1, 2002** (or 45 days after the last date of the children's program) – MSRP Competitive and State Aid Year End Reports
- August 30, 2002** – FY00-01 MSRP **State Aid** Carryover **Expenditure** Report Summary
- September 10, 2002** – Registration deadline for Mackinaw City Fall Kick-Off
- September 24, 2002** – Registration deadline for Grand Rapids Fall Kick-Off
- October 1, 2002** – Registration deadline for Dearborn Fall Kick-Off
- October 15, 2002** – FY02-03 MSRP **State Aid** Implementation Plan/Final Application
- October 18, 2002** – FY01-02 MSRP **State Aid** Actual Final Expenditures Report **AND** Carryover Budget Request Form (if requesting carryover)
- October 31, 2002** – FY00-01 **Full-Day Services** Grant for MSRP and Head Start Programs Narrative Summary **AND** Actual Final Expenditures Report
- November 15, 2002** – FY01-02 MSRP **State Aid** Actual Final Expenditures Report (if NO carryover)
- November 30, 2002** – FY01-02 MSRP **Competitive** On-Line Final Expenditures Report (DS-4044) **AND** Budget Detail Only of Actual Final Expenditures Report that **MUST** match DS-4044.

Please refer to Early Childhood and Parenting Programs web site for additional information.

EXCITING WEB SITES

National Program for Playground Safety, <http://www.uni.edu/playground/home.html>

"It is our hope that by increasing public awareness, we can reduce playground injuries and save lives. To be effective, we need the help of parents, state and public officials, and other adults responsible for America's playgrounds. By working together as advocates for children's safety we can make a difference. Please join us in our race to prevent playground injuries. Let's keep kids SAFE!"

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), <http://www.naeyc.org>

"NAEYC Position Statements are adopted by the Governing Board to state the Association's position on issues related to early childhood education practice, policy, and/or professional development. All position statements are periodically reviewed to maintain currency. The position statements can be viewed, downloaded, and printed from the Web site."

Please share your recommended reading and exciting websites by e-mailing robinsonconnie@michigan.gov.

Michigan School Readiness Program
Biennial Legislative Formula Review Committee will meet September 18, 2002
Address comments for consideration to
Connie Robinson at: robinsonconnie@michigan.gov

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

September 12, 2002

MSRP State Aid Technical Assistance Final Application through MEGS

2 – 1/2 day TAs will be offered via video conference

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon OR 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Locations to be determined. Watch the web for final details.

September 13, 2002

MSRP State Aid Technical Assistance Final Application through MEGS

1/2 day TA will be offered via video conference

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Locations to be determined. Watch the web for final details.

September 20, 2002 – Ramada Inn, Mackinaw City

Fall Kick-Off – Language and Literacy, It's MORE than reading books!

Registration forms are available on the web site: www.michigan.gov/mde

October 4, 2002 – Airport Hilton, Grand Rapids

Fall Kick-Off – Language and Literacy, It's MORE than reading books!

Registration forms are available on the web site: www.michigan.gov/mde

October 11, 2002 – Holiday Inn Fairlane, Dearborn

Fall Kick-Off – Language and Literacy, It's MORE than reading books!

Registration forms are available on the web site: www.michigan.gov/mde

October 29-30, 2002

**National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL)
Training**

Sheraton Hotel

925 South Croyts Road

Lansing, MI

Additional information available on the website
after August 19. www.michigan.gov/mde

November 18-20, 2002

**Supporting Families with Young Children
Conference**

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Grand Rapids, MI

For more information contact the Children's Trust
Fund at (517) 241-7226.

November 20-23, 2002

NAEYC Annual Conference

New York City

More information is available on: www.naeyc.org

January 22-24, 2003

**Michigan Collaborative Early Childhood
Conference**

Hyatt Regency

Dearborn, Michigan

For more information contact Early Childhood and
Parenting Programs at (517) 373-8483.

March 27-29, 2003

**Michigan Association for the Education of
Young Children Annual Conference**

Amway Grand Plaza and Grand Center

Grand Rapids, Michigan

For more information contact MiAEYC at
www.miaeyc.org or (800) 336-6424.

April 29-May 2, 2003

Annual High/Scope International Conference

Ypsilanti Marriott

Ypsilanti, Michigan

More information is available on
www.highscope.org

RECOMMENDED READING

Active Start, A Statement of Physical Activity Guidelines for Children Birth to Five Years, National Association for Sport and Physical Education. To order, call 1-800-321-0789, or order on-line at www.aahperd.org/naspe. Cost is \$10 for members and \$13 for non-members.

Alfie Kohn, *No Contest: The Case Against Competition*, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, New York, 1986, 1992.

Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children, Catherine E. Snow, M. Susan Burns, and Peg Griffin, Editors; Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children, National Research Council. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1999. Web site: <http://www.nap.edu>.

Judith Schickendanz, *Much More than the ABCs: The Early Stages of Reading and Writing*, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Washington, DC, 1999.

REACHING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PARENTING PROGRAMS STAFF

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Please do not hesitate to contact the Early Childhood and Parenting Programs office at (517) 373-8483 with any questions!

"To try to make sense, to construct stories, and to share them with others in speech and in writing is an essential part of being human." - Gordon Wells